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NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)

SURVEY AND IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE



NOTE: If family papers, diaries, etc., are not available, useful sources of information are the Titles office, the Municipal rate books, and early Directories at the La Trobe Library. At least one photograph, 3 1/2" x 4 1/2", is required to support the historical data.

The Trust has limited facilities for research and would appreciate your exploring the above sources as thoroughly as possible before returning this form.

Re. Ref. No - 215.

DATA FORM
No. 215 - 90 Home & Hospital for the aged
(formerly Bendigo Benevolent Home)

- 1. Present name of building *Home & Hospital for the aged*
- 2. Address (precisely, please; if out-of-town describe location sufficiently to enable a visit).
..... *Burnard St Bendigo, Victoria*
- 3. Present owner *The Trustees & Committee of Home Institution.*
- 4. Present occupant (if not owner) *as above*
- 5. Date of original construction *1870 - mainly 3 stages*
- 5a. Evidence for that date *as explained in accompanying notes*
..... *Additional records, then repairs of the day*
..... *Photographs of the period, & literature since then*
- 6. Structural changes, with dates *None, but entire block is*
..... *still unaltered since 1870 - see notes*
- 6a. Evidence for that information *B/A 14/3/1860 B/A 20/1/1870*
- 7. Architect/Designer *Robt. A. Howe (Early portion) New York*
- 7a. Evidence *B/A 19/10/1857 16/3/1860 from 1870 ~~1870~~ 1900*
- 8. Builder/s *Swapped: G. B. B. B. B. B.*
- 8a. Evidence *B/A reports*
- 9. Person or organisation for whom building was originally built
..... *see above*

- 10. Old illustrations, name and address of holder *Copies of an early photograph are held by the C.V. Beach & N. T. ...*
- 11. Published references to the building *Beach*
- 12. Unpublished papers - name and address of holder
- 13. Notes on architecture, history, owners, occupiers, etc.,

See separate sheet

Informant's name and address *R. A. Anderson, Sec. of Committee*
 *C.V. Beach N/T*
 Signature Date *3.11.78*

COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Architect:

Historian:

Listed in Regional List 1969 Ref. No. 315. Benevolent Home & Lodge
("defaced")

NOTES ON THE BENDIGO HOME & HOSPITAL FOR THE AGED
(know in earlier years as The Bendigo Benevolent Home)

A MEETING OF PROMOTERS is reported in The Bendigo Advertiser as having taken place on 19th October 1857. At that time, no start was made on any of the present buildings in Bernard St but local tradition suggests that small temporary premises located in Eaglehawk Road on the Garden Gully hillside were utilised for a time. This location proved to be too near rapidly developing mining areas and a new site of 10 acres, by Government Grant, was made available in Bernard Street. (A similar area a little to the North was allocated about the same time for The Bendigo Gold District Hospital. Both sites were well away from the main lines of reefs, then being opened up as surface gold became exhausted.)

"Bendigo Advertiser" 16th March, 1860

The inauguration of the newly erected Benevolent Asylum took place on 15th. March. Situated on the West side of Commissioner's Gully, Bernard Street. The building itself is from the design of Mr Robert A. Love, Architect. Contractor - Mr Crawford. Clerk of Works - Mr Wrigley.

" It is entered from a door on the basement floor which opens to a corridor running straight through, crossing another running at right angles longitudinally through the home. On this floor, the basement, is the kitchen, store room, cellars and we believe Master and Matron's apartments.

Ascending by a flight of stairs we come to the first floor with a large dining room 48ft x 18ft and at the opposite side of the corridor, two large rooms. The next floor consists of smaller rooms, apparently dormitories.

The whole of the building is constructed on the arch principle and all the rooms are fitted with arrangements for heating them with hot air. At the ends of several corridors are lavatories and other conveniences - well lighted and ventilated.

On this occasion, a temporary balcony had been fitted out with flags, and two large banners also floated over the roof of the building.

It is remarked that in consequence of the smallness of the balcony, and the anything but smallness of the crinolines on this occasion, the taking of notes was what might truthfully be called "reporting under difficulties"

"Bendigo Advertiser" December 20th, 1872

Memorial Stone. Benevolent Home. Yesterday afternoon the Memorial Stone of the Bendigo Benevolent Home was laid by The Hon. Mr Sullivan.

It is a massive block of Harcourt granite measuring 4ft. 3in x 2 ft. 2 in weight about 26 cwt. Polished at the works of Mr J Taylor Mitchell St.

"The stone will form part of a line of pillars in connection with which the design for the front elevation is being carried out as originally planned. An immense portico is being built with 12 columns of brick and cement each 36 feet high, the bases being of granite. The whole of the upper part will be finished in Portland Cement.

The amount of the contract is above £2000 and the contractor is Mr Batten. Clerk of works - Mr Burchill.

A fund was commenced, then land granted by the Government, plans by Robert A. Love also approved, portion of the building as designed, completed and opened 15th March 1860. From time to time to meet requirements of the district additions have been made to the building in accordance with plans prepared by Mr Love and Messrs Vahland & Getzmann, architects. 5th November 1868, the Western wing was added to house 50 girls from Melbourne, then the Portico mentioned above.

The Inscription on the stone reads as follows -

BENDIGO BENEVOLENT HOME

Founded 19th Day of October 1857

This Memorial Stone was laid on 19th Day of December 1872

NOTES ON PLAN ATTACHED.

There has been little external alteration to the central block since it was finished. A small glassed-in wind shield has been placed in the centre of the portice at ground level.

The Porter's Lodge is in mint condition and well cared for.

The Superintendent's Residence in the S/W corner of the grounds is untouched as yet

Some of the ancillary early buildings e.g. 18 and 8 on the plan have been skinned with glassed-in walk-ways, and No 13 is in danger of demolition if another new wing is contemplated to the West of tall modern wards - Nos 5, 9, 31 & 34. (the latter two new in course of construction)

Sections in GREEN are dated 1857 - 1900

" RED " " 1900 - 1925

All others within recent years, and in building now.

MEMO.

"Commissioner's Gully (at first a rubbish tip) later became a lake at the West end with a road between (Park Road) it, and the Show Grounds . (See Map from Lands Office c. 1881) The lake has now been filled in and forms the base for lawn tennis courts, the Oval to the East is still used for sporting events.

The press accounts above prove that Robert A. Love was the first architect for the three floors of the central block and the wings, soon added, together with the Residence and ancillary buildings as marked in Green. Vahland and Gutschmann came into the picture later on. (Love was also the architect for St Paul's Church, Sandhurst - 1868 and tower (1874) .

It is significant that no architects are mentioned on the 'Memorial Stone' of 1872. From the press reports it is not clear that Vahland designed the porch although from that date, he seems to have been in charge of further building.